

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 550

Introduced by Council, 11; Ashford, 20; Cook, 13; Krist, 10; Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7.

WHEREAS, Luigi Waites was born Lewis Waites on July 10, 1927, in Omaha, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, a self-taught Luigi Waites began playing drums professionally at the age of twelve; and

WHEREAS, Luigi Waites performed with such greats as Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington, Dizzy Gillespie, Jean Luc Ponty, Ramsey Lewis, Lionel Hampton, Bob Darch, and James Brown; and

WHEREAS, Luigi Waites was active in working with a wide variety of K-12 schools and colleges in sixteen states; and

WHEREAS, Luigi Waites taught and inspired young musicians for more than sixty years; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Luigi Waites founded The Contemporaries, a multicultural, independent marching corps, which dispensed with the traditional military style marching and instead featured jazz rhythms; and

WHEREAS, Luigi Waites was named Nebraska Artist of the Year in 1996; and

WHEREAS, in honor of twenty years of service on the board of the Omaha Summer Arts Festival, the Luigi Waites Main Stage was

dedicated to honor him; and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Press Club named Luigi Waites the 81st Face on the Bar Room Floor in 2000; and

WHEREAS, an honorary high school diploma was bestowed on Luigi Waites at Omaha North High School in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Luigi Waites was inducted into the Omaha Black Music Hall of Fame in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Luigi Waites was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Omaha Entertainment Awards Ceremony in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Luigi Waites was named best jazz artist at the Omaha Entertainment Awards Ceremony in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Luigi Waites and his band, Luigi Inc., have performed for more than one thousand seven hundred consecutive Sundays in Omaha; and

WHEREAS, Luigi Waites died in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 6, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature honors the memory of Luigi Waites for his talent, dedication, and service to the people of Nebraska.

2. That the Legislature expresses and extends its sympathy and condolences to the family of Luigi Waites.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Luigi Waites.